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which it was designed, but it can scarcely be regarded as an original contribution to the economic history of the United States.

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*University of Illinois.*

*The Public Domain and Democracy.* By ROBERT TUDOR HILL.  
(New York: The Columbia University Press. 1910. Pp. 253.)

This monograph is little else than a composite reflection of the characteristic works of Professors Turner, Giddings and Merriam in their respective fields of history, sociology and politics, in so far as they pertain to social institutions coincident with the occupation of western America. As an interpretation of the United States census, Donaldson's *Public Domain* and recent official and semi-official reports concerning natural resources, in the light of the teachings of the above named men, Dr. Hill's work is of commendable interest and value. Many pages are devoted to a review of the context of the land laws, as detailed by Donaldson and Sato, and to an exemplification of the conflict between public policy and frontier individualism by the enumeration of alleged trespass upon the public domain and misappropriation of natural resources. But nowhere appears a statement of the proprietorship attributes of the public domain, of the theory of the settlement laws, or of the methods and motives of extra-legal appropriation of public lands and circumvention of the spirit and intent of the statutes. Nor is there reference to the extraordinary institutional aspects of irrigation and mining activities on the public domain and their relation to subsequent democratic ideals.

Dr. Hill's own conception of "democracy" is evasive. De Tocqueville, Bryce, Merriam and Giddings are indiscriminately quoted in definition and with apparent approval. "Ideals of Democracy" are frequently alluded to in a casual manner, and the reader is informed that "democracy is a dynamic ideal" (p. 128); but one seeks in vain for an exposition of the consecutive reconstruction or the evolutionary order of democratic ideals in America.

RALPH H. HESS.

*University of Wisconsin.*

*British Credit in the Last Napoleonic War.* By AUDREY CUNNINGHAM (B.A., Trinity College, Dublin; of Girton College,